

هكذا على التل

Worse
imp

alestinian supporter killed in Paris

PARIS, Jan. 18 (R)—Youssef Moubarak, an ardent supporter of the Palestinian cause, died today in hospital after being shot in the head at point blank range, police said. Mr. Moubarak, a 26-year-old Lebanese, had been in a coma since the attack by a lone gunman near his left bank Arab bookshop last night. Police are treating the shooting as a political case. Mr. Moubarak was lying along St. Germain Boulevard near his Arab bookshop when a lone gunman fired a single shot into his head, police said. The gunman, described as being of Middle Eastern appearance, jumped into the crowd. The shooting was similar to the assassination four years ago of Mr. Moubarak's predecessor at the bookshop in the left bank Latin Quarter. Mr. Mahmoud Saleh, a hard-line Palestinian militant, was assassinated near the same spot by two gunmen. The killers were never brought to justice, but police said they assumed they were Israeli agents.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية "الراي"

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arter may be called in to seek solution Three-way summit on autonomy talks mooted

AVIV, Jan. 18 (Agencies) — Israel and Egypt deadlocked on Palestinian autonomy, evidence

Minister Menachem Begin said he was invited to attend a meeting with President Carter and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. But he added a warning that Washington not try to pressure Israel. Western diplomats said the odds now favor Mr. Carter attending such talks, but the pressures of the presidential election year in the United States. A deadlock was highlighted by the uncertainty in which Israel and Egypt rejected each other's plans for the West Bank and Gaza. The sides accused each other of deviating from Camp David accords. Drawn up at an earlier date in September, 1978, these accords laid the groundwork for an agreement on Palestinian autonomy in terms sufficiently imprecise to admit of interpretations. The argument put forward by Israel's chief negotiator, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, was that even the limited autonomy offered by Israel is better than anything the West Bank and Gaza inhabitants had before. Talking to reporters today, Mr. Burg accused Egypt of inflexibility. He repeated that giving wide freedom to the West Bank and Gaza Palestinians would lead to creation of a Soviet-dominated Palestinian state poised to work for Israel's destruction. Dr. Burg said Israel completely rejected Egyptian proposals which, he said, would mean the establishment of a Palestinian parliament and complete autonomy for the area, including East Jerusalem.

grew today that President Carter may once again be called in to seek solutions at a three-way summit

have refused to discuss Israel's plan, calling it a trick to perpetuate Israeli domination under another name. Mr. Begin said yesterday Egypt was trying to change and distort the Camp David accords. Speaking to the Bnei Brith social service organization in occupied Jerusalem, he said there was no reference in the agreement to the granting of legislative powers to the administrative council which is to rule the projected autonomous areas of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Egypt claims that the Camp David accord says that the administrative council will have legislative and judicial powers... I am prepared to go over the written documents and prove that there is no mention of such prerogatives," he said. "Now it is being suggested that we agree, retroactively, to change and even to distort the basic agreement which we worked so hard to achieve." The argument put forward by Israel's chief negotiator, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, was that even the limited autonomy offered by Israel is better than anything the West Bank and Gaza inhabitants had before. Talking to reporters today, Mr. Burg accused Egypt of inflexibility. He repeated that giving wide freedom to the West Bank and Gaza Palestinians would lead to creation of a Soviet-dominated Palestinian state poised to work for Israel's destruction. Dr. Burg said Israel completely rejected Egyptian proposals which, he said, would mean the establishment of a Palestinian parliament and complete autonomy for the area, including East Jerusalem.

(Continued on page 3)

Regional Briefs

RO, Jan. 18 (AP)—Egypt's small leftist party said today that of their active members and 60 sympathisers have been freed by the police. Mr. Khaled Mohieddine, who heads the resurgent Nationalist Union, said the detentions were made at Tuesday, the day his party planned a rally to commemorate the birthday of the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser. But, Mr. Mohieddine pointed out in a telephone interview that no charges had been pressed yet against those detained. Names of those detained were listed in a party press release circulated to news agencies. Police spokesmen were not immediately available for comment. Mr. Mohieddine said he had been told by police that the party was "leftists and some communists." The Communist Party has long been outlawed in Egypt. Minister of Interior Abdel Nasser said in a recent statement to parliament that "local communists" were trying to undermine national unity. The minister also announced last week the arrest in Beirut of 70 members of an extremist Islamic fundamentalist group known as "Al Jihad" (Holy War).

IS, Jan. 18 (R)—Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammad Ben Abdou said today on a two-day official visit and expressed the hope that often troubled Franco-Algerian ties would improve. Algerian minister was the first high-ranking member of his government to visit France, Algeria's former colonial ruler, since the death of former President Houari Boumedienne. Mr. Ben Abdou said at the airport: "My conviction is that Algeria and France should develop relations of quality and without ambiguity the basis of their mutual interests." Bitter memories of Algeria's eight-year war of independence have always coloured relations between the two countries and other issues, including war in the Sahel, have caused tension between them. In an interview published in Paris yesterday, Mr. Ben Abdou said the Sahara conflict, involving Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas against Moroccan forces, could worsen. France backed Morocco in the years of the dispute, but has recently adopted a more neutral stance.

AVIV, Jan. 18 (R)—Israeli soldiers today shot dead a man, a military spokesman claimed, crossed the border from Lebanon and opened fire on them. The spokesman said the man was searching the border where a security fence separating Israel and Lebanon had been breached when the man was spotted and opened fire on the patrol. The man was killed back killing the man, who was carrying a revolver and a sum of money. Military sources said the area was used by Lebanese and Israeli smugglers.

A, Jan. 18 (R)—An Israeli military court sentenced two Palestinian commandos today to 20 years imprisonment for plotting, planting explosives and for having received weapons in Syria. The prosecutor said they caused an explosion which severely damaged a bank in Gaza last May. Hassan Abdul Rahman Ali Aliyan, 22, and Nasser Zaki Dabanoun, 23, were found of belonging to the Salqa Palestinian commando organization.

RAIN, Jan. 18 (R)—British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington flew home today after a brief refuelling stopover during which he discussed the situation in Afghanistan with his Bahraini counterpart. The Gulf News Agency said Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdul Aziz Al Khalifa and Lord Carrington also discussed bilateral issues and the results of Lord Carrington's Middle East and West Asian tour. Lord Carrington who arrived here from Delhi, has already visited Turkey, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

RAIN, Jan. 18 (R)—French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Louis Deniau left for home today ending a Gulf tour aimed at urging the visit of French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to the region next March. French embassy sources here said Deniau also discussed trade and economic relations between the two countries. Mr. Deniau has already visited the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.



Iranian nationals in Pakistan burn posters and pictures of the former Shah of Iran at the Iranian Cultural Centre in Rawalpindi.

Iran places restrictions on Citibank in France

PARIS, Jan. 18 (R)—Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has had restrictions placed on American Citibank accounts in France in a new development in the dispute over President Carter's freeze on Iranian funds, lawyers said today. Bailiffs made attachments on Citibank's accounts at the French central bank and at the Banque Internationale pour l'Afrique Occidentale at the Iranian bank's request. Citibank has applied to the Paris civil court for the attachments to be rescinded, and the judge promised a ruling on Monday. In Tehran, the Central Bank

Following Soviet role in Afghanistan Huang arrives in Pakistan to prove China's support

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 18 (Agencies) — Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua arrived in Islamabad today to demonstrate Chinese support for Pakistan following the Soviet intervention in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Huang was expected to spend four days in Pakistan before returning directly home. China and Pakistan are close allies and western diplomatic sources said the Chinese have taken the position that "stern action" was needed against the Soviet Union. It was not known, however, what concrete support Mr. Huang would offer Pakistan. His trip comes a week after the visit to China by U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown, who had extensive discussions with China's leaders on ways of countering what both saw as the Soviet threat. The talks included ways in which the two countries could strengthen Pakistan. China has provided Pakistan in the past with light tanks and aircraft and built a tank engine reconditioning plant near Islamabad. China also has about 40 military advisers in Pakistan, but it was not known whether Peking would increase the level of its military involvement in the area. The Chinese foreign ministry flatly denied an Afghan charge earlier this week that it was aiding rebels in Afghanistan. Some diplomats said it was likely that new Chinese aid to Pakistan would take the form of diplomatic support and supplies of light military weapons and equipment, leaving heavy weaponry for the United States or Europe. Diplomatic sources said, however, that the Chinese were believed to have decided to delay the second round of Sino-Soviet talks aimed at normalising relations between the communist giants. The first round of talks took place in Moscow last autumn. The sources said it now appeared that the talks would be delayed, although not broken off. Soviet bloc sources anticipated the Chinese would add Afghanistan to the list of problems for discussion when they do resume. China's senior vice-premier, Deng Xiaoping, referred to the Soviet threat in South Asia in a major policy speech to senior officials in Peking two days ago, the sources said. There were also unconfirmed reports of a strategy meeting on the Afghanistan crisis last Monday. Some diplomats suggest China is being forced to reassess its strategic thinking in the light of Soviet involvement in Afghanistan, and the earlier alliance between the Soviet Union and Vietnam on China's southern flank. One result of this appears to be the steady strengthening of relations with the United States. Mr. Brown is quoted as having told Japanese leaders the U.S. and China were virtually in accord on strategy and that his talks in Peking had laid the groundwork for developing new defence relations between the two countries. Western diplomats talked of a shift in the global strategic balance as a result of Mr. Brown's visit, while American sources said the key phrase in the new Sino-U.S. relationship was "parallel interests". Apart from its armed forces, which would need extensive modernisation before any serious resistance to a Soviet military action, Pakistan is in serious economic difficulties and would welcome large amounts of development aid. The United States has already promised military and civil aid to Pakistan, although details have not yet been announced. British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, who left here on Wednesday after a two-day morale-boosting visit, assured Pakistan of Britain's support. His visit was seen by Pakistan as important for influencing a joint European and NATO reply to the Soviet action in Afghanistan. Fighting between Soviet-backed Afghan forces and anti-government rebels is already raging close to the border with Pakistan. In the Afghan capital Kabul there was still no explanation today for an outbreak of firing near the city's international airport yesterday. Up to 85,000 Soviet troops are in Afghanistan following the coup on Dec. 27 which toppled former President Hafizullah Amin and installed Soviet-backed Babrak Karmal as the country's new leader. Meanwhile, American journalists who have been ordered to leave Afghanistan were unable to fly to India today because of bad weather which forced the cancellation of two flights.

Electricity workers on hunger strike in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (R)—The workers committee of the Jerusalem District Electricity Company today held a hunger strike in protest against the Israeli government's plan to buy the company. Palestinian mayors and notables from the West Bank visited the hunger strikers on the company premises. Residents of East Jerusalem and the West Bank held a general strike last Monday to protest the Israeli intention.

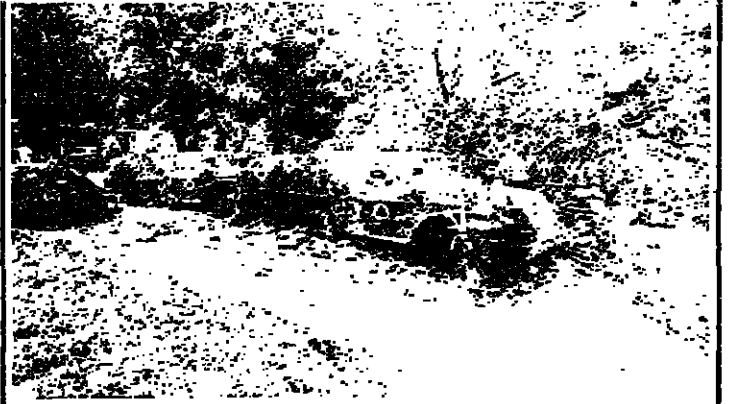


Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak (left) and President Carter discuss the situation in the Middle East on Thursday in the Oval Office of the White House. Mr. Mubarak is visiting leaders in Washington as part of his round-the-world tour. (AP wirephoto)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (Agencies) — President Carter and Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak conferred last night on the situation in the Middle East and what they called the Soviet Union's abhorrent attack on Afghanistan. One of the main items on the agenda was the failure of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to reach agreement on autonomy terms for the West Bank of Jordan and Gaza Strip when they met at Aswan earlier this month. "The president and Vice President Mubarak stressed the importance they place on sustained movement in the autonomy talks..." a White House statement said. On the crisis in Southwest Asia, the statement said they "expressed their shared abhorrence of the Soviet attack on the religious and nationalist-minded Muslim people of Afghanistan."

Waldheim denies return to Tehran

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 18 (R)—Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has no plan to return to Tehran in the near future, his spokesman said today. The spokesman was reacting to speculation that Dr. Waldheim might visit Iran during his trip to New Delhi, where he is due to attend a U.N. Industrial Development Organisation conference on Sunday. The secretary-general was due to leave New York tonight for Switzerland and then board a chartered aircraft for New Delhi. He is expected back in New York next week.



PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Jan. 18 (R)—Soviet helicopter gunships pounded Afghan insurgents in the hills near the eastern city of Jalalabad today, the insurgents said. The gunships, armed with rockets and machine-guns, were helping Afghan government troops deployed to eliminate guerrillas who had been ambushing the main highway east from Kabul to Pakistan, they said. A guerrilla ambush ten days ago closed the road for four hours.

Guerrilla spokesmen in Peshawar said today that Afghan MIG fighters from Jalalabad air base also flew sorties in the drive to eliminate the guerrilla bands south of the highway and prevent further risk to traffic. A Soviet brigade group of 1,800 men based at Jalalabad has not yet joined the ground fighting, leaving it to Afghan troops loyal to President Babrak Karmal's Marxist government in Kabul. Correspondents who drove through Jalalabad in the past 24 hours reported the city quiet and residents said the clashes were in barren, stony hills and gullies south of Sorh Road, about 40 kilometres west of Jalalabad. Guerrilla sources in Peshawar said today their men had made night forays to kill Karmal supporters as close as five kilometres to Jalalabad. They said the otherwise formidable gunships had one weakness: they lacked side guns and had to manoeuvre to hit men crouching behind obstacles in their line of fire, giving the men time to find new cover. A Reuters correspondent in Jalalabad this week saw Afghan soldiers with tanks, armoured personnel carriers and anti-aircraft guns. The Soviet force is discreetly quartered in the barracks and dug in gardens east of the city. Guerrillas continued to report that heavier fighting was in progress in north-east Afghanistan in and around Badkshan province, where western intelligence sources have also said that the Afghan army is hard-pressed. Insurgents had no fresh news from that front today, except to say that in fighting on Wednesday near Zaiabak, Badkshan, Soviet-supported Afghan troops lost 10 tanks and 200 men. Diplomats have said that such figures are difficult to verify. Travellers to Quetta, Pakistan, told of anarchy in the Afghan city of Kandahar on Dec. 31 and said mobs lynched three Russian civilians working at a textile mill. The Soviet army entered Kandahar the next day. For the third day, guerrilla spokesmen in Peshawar were today telling journalists that a number of Muslim Soviet soldiers deserted their formation in Afghanistan. The number, put at 14 yesterday, was given today as 15. They were said to be from Bokhara and to have deserted close to the major Soviet staging base at Bagram, north of Kabul. The Muslim rebels have managed to destroy Soviet tanks (above) and helicopters (below). (Gamma photos)

The hijacker who threatened to blow the aircraft with a hand grenade also released the plane's crew of nine before giving himself up to Lebanese authorities.

Newsman saw the young man being whisked by police from the airport about an hour after he permitted the plane to land back to Beirut for refuelling. An airport spokesman said the hijacker agreed to release the plane and give himself up after negotiations he conducted through the plane's radio system with Lebanon's Communications Minister Butros Harb at the control tower.

He identified himself as Fuad Hmeidi and said he staged the hijack to draw public attention to the Muslim World to the fate of Imam Mousa Al Sadr, religious leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite minority. He surrendered after Mr. Harb and another minister agreed that he could hold an airport press conference.

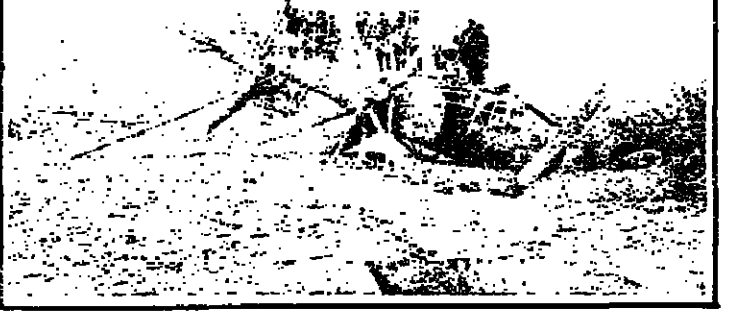
The hijacker had ordered the pilot to fly to Tehran, but the captain returned to Beirut because the aircraft had insufficient fuel to get to Iran. Mr. Harb and Interior Minister Bahij Takiyeddin rushed to the airport to negotiate from the control tower with the young guerrilla while the plane was being refuelled.

Lebanon's Shi'ite community has accused Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi of being responsible for the disappearance of the Imam. But the Libyans have denied this and say the spiritual leader left the country for Rome after his visit.

The hijacker told the press conference that more such operations would take place until Imam Sadr was returned.

The guerrilla called for the deployment of the Lebanese regular army in the south and "the complete removal of armed men... because the south is suffering from slow death and disintegration."

Interior Minister Takiyeddin said the hijacker would be treated with sympathy.



With the help of economic irrigation system

West Bank farmers revitalise Valley production

By Sara O'Neill
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 18 -- The occupied West Bank of the Jordan River, traditionally known to be more fertile than the East Bank, has witnessed a sharp decline in agricultural productivity. There is even a marked contrast between the two banks of the Jordan Valley. The area still under Jordanian control has become something of a showpiece, but that is hardly the case just across the river.

The Israelis' expropriation of Arab owned land and their ever growing demands on the West Bank's vital resources such as water — five sixths of the West Bank water supply is now being taken by the Israelis — has had a devastating effect on Arab farming in recent years. Those most harmed have been farm-owners and tenants of small holdings who, lacking technical know-how and financial backing, have been least able to counteract the strong Israeli competition thriving in their midst with more efficient agricultural methods.

The totally free flow of Israeli goods into the West Bank market has sometimes caused the price of goods to drop so low that the Arab farmers could not even recover their costs. Their only hope is to export to the East Bank.

Hardest hit among the small farmers have been those in the poorer, semi-arid regions of the Jordan Valley north of Jericho where some 2,000 Jewish settlers already control 50,000 dunums or 70 per cent of the cultivable land.

In this region, Arab farmers, relying totally on old fashioned, wasteful methods of irrigation by open furrow and perforated plastic pipe systems were, at best, living merely at subsistence level. Many, like their brothers throughout the West Bank, were forced to abandon their land and work elsewhere or suffer the humiliation of working for the Jewish settlers on their own land.

"The East Bank is flourishing while the West Bank is withering away," a young Palestinian involved in rural development remarked in a recent conversation with the Jordan Times. He is currently supervising an irrigation project in the northern part of the Jordan Valley which has so far cost the voluntary agency for whom he works about \$150,000 in subsidies — a mere drop in the ocean compared to the huge investment being considered on this side of the river. World Bank representatives are currently reviewing, on behalf of several major Western countries, the feasibility of funding the JD 200 million second phase of the Jordan Valley Irrigation System for the east bank of the valley. The Jordan Valley Authority's plans to boost agricultural production are having their desired effect.

Yet, for Palestinian farmers engaged in a struggle for their very survival in the face of increasing demands on their resources from the Israelis, even quite modest technical and financial support has inspired them, through initiative and hard work, to bring new life to a field of production fundamental to West Bank economy.

The picture has remarkably changed for the better, thanks to the irrigation project initiated three years ago by a church-based voluntary organisation with the technical advice of engineers of the Jordanian government's West Bank Extension Service (formerly the agricultural department). Some 2,500 Palestinians — small farmers, tenants and their families have started reaping the benefits brought about by the installation of a drip irrigation system which, by the economic use and efficient placement of water, has increased by as much as five or six fold the annual productivity of their vegetable crops.



The children of one tenant farmer prepare a harvest of baby marrows for shipment. The replacement of old-fashioned methods of irrigation

with the new drip irrigation system has increased farm productivity by five or six times.

The productivity of tomatoes, for example has shot up from one ton per dunum to an average of 6 to 8 tons. A similar ratio applies to other crops, the supervisor said. The main market for these crops will be, as before, the East Bank. Restrictions on West Bankers exporting to Israel itself are so complicated that most farmers don't even try.

So far drip irrigation has been installed on 3,000 dunums which represent 30 to 40 per cent of cultivated Arab-owned land allocated for vegetable production in the area. Within two or three years the amount of land converted should total 8,000 dunums, spread out from Bardala and Ain Al Bayda up near the northern border of the West Bank down to the Jiflik area not far from the Danyia (Prince Mohammad) Bridge.

"Drip irrigation, first developed in California, involves the pressurising of a supply of filtered water through a network of 16mm flexible polythene pipes which are laid along the rows of crops being irrigated," Dr. Peter Oakley of Reading University states in his paper "Drip Irrigation for small farmers in the Jordan Valley" (1978). "At intervals ranging from half a metre to 1.6 metres the pipes are fitted with a small nozzle about 100mm long which allows a small and precisely controlled seepage of water directly over the rootzone of the plants so that wastage is negligible," he explains.

Although water pumped up from the ground in tubewells can pass directly into the irrigation system, water emanating from springs has to first enter a small reservoir for storage. Water from either source is then pumped into the system through the head works or "control head" which includes filters and a fertiliser tank, as well as pressure gauge and volume controller. The treated water passes through a network of "distribution" and "branch" lines, before reaching the 16mm "dripper" lines laid along the rows of crops.

Installation of drip irrigation is therefore highly technical and requires a high capital outlay of about \$200 per dunum which would have been financially as well as technically beyond these small farmers' means at first. The church organisation provided 30 per cent of the capital in subsidies.

part of the farmers shares which were all repaid the same year from increased harvest revenue.

The equipment has in every case been installed by the manufacturing company involved.

The project was started on a pilot basis in 1976. At that time there had been only one unsuccessful attempt to install such a system in the area, where no farmer has more than 100 dunums

of land and where crops are restricted to basic vegetables such as cucumbers, aubergines and baby-marrows.

The Palestinian supervisor added that from the mid 70s onwards drip irrigation had been installed successfully, although not to a very high standard, by wealthy farmers in the Jericho area where the large citrus and banana groves are concentrated. Although it is possible to develop

banana groves on a relatively small basis compared with citrus groves, the agency's aim in the north was not to expand the amount of land under irrigation but to improve output on existing land.

The first phase of the installation programme got underway in 1977 and by the end of that year an area of 29.6 hectares had been converted in two main areas centred on Jiflik and Marj Na'jah

(just across the river from 'Alia). The following year (farmers to the north of Jiflik Froush Beit Dajan area were assisted and last year two vi in the far north. Bardala and Al Bayda, were included in scheme as well as Ras Al Fi the north west near Tubas.

Despite the high initial cost of drip irrigation it is not once a large farmer's system as possible to install units serve more than five dunums which still economically viable. The voluntary agency has been serve a number of single occupier farmers of land less a hectare in size (10 dunum well as on larger areas of (average size 2.9 hectares owned by one occupier but by several tenant farmers as

Training and technical installation given during the period by an irrigator from the West Extension Service. Any advice and support the might need is provided by the voluntary agency. In fact, the supervisor pointed out, this becoming less and less need the farmers, after on-the training have already learn install and operate the system. Some are planning extend their systems then and all farmers who participated in 1979 were able to install own systems.

Aid in 1980 will be cent Bardala and Ain Al Bayda, inhabitants were the first to from having their water supply completely dried up in the 70's by the Israeli drilling bore wells too near to the system.

After many wrangles in co-villagers finally won the right percentage only of their ample water resources, irrigation is of utmost importance here.



Rows of vegetables protected by plastic covering on farmland in the Jiflik area of the Jordan Valley (West Bank) where drip irrigation recently been installed.

Quo vadis?

THE REPERCUSSIONS of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan have only begun to be felt. President Carter told U.S. editors recently that the move not only posed a threat to Pakistan and Iran but also to "90 per cent of the exportable oil supplies in the world."

The pieces are still falling into place, but the major powers are already scurrying about, forming new alliances or bolstering old ones. China is trying to ward off the threat of Soviet encirclement. British diplomats have been active in the area and President Carter has brought the "grain weapon" as well as other sanctions to bear on the offending party.

The tragic thing, of course, is that as usual it is the small nations, not the superpowers, which will ultimately have to pay the heaviest price in terms of their independence and sovereignty.

Iran is a good example. The Soviet Union's need for oil will soon outstrip the supplies available to it. For that reason alone Iran should feel threatened; not only does it possess oil but it also commands a very strategic location on the doorstep of all the major Middle East oil fields. It can be bullied into selling its oil under conditions not of its own choosing, it could fall under total foreign domination (by either superpower) and it could even end up divided into several minisates because of its strategic location.

Iran's former foreign minister, Mr. Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr has said he thinks the USSR wants to divide Iran in order to reach the Indian Ocean, and he is not exactly noted for his leanings to the Western camp. A scenario in which one superpower backs the government in Tehran while the other gives aid and arms to rebellious ethnic groups is not difficult to imagine.

The question is where is Iran in all this? Like other Third World nations it does not want to fall into either camp. The people of Iran are concerned with charting their own course in life and shaking off the yolk of the past, which included dependence on one superpower.

Is it preordained that, like other Third World nations that find themselves at the centre of events beyond their control, it must put aside its own desires and serve those of the mighty? That is a very likely conclusion. Perhaps the best it can do is to hold on to its independence as long as it can.

But if it is to succeed at all in avoiding its probable fate, it must look beyond its borders and formulate a strategy that transcends domestic considerations. The U.S. embassy hostages drama has been going on for a long time; it is wise to drag it on? Picking a confrontation with one superpower might prove to be a costly exercise when the need to manoeuvre arises.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: In his tour yesterday of the Irbid Governorate and meetings with the people there, His Majesty King Hussein urged citizens to take an active part in the affairs of their region.

The King called for greater cooperation between government and people in development, promoting agricultural, industrial and social potentials and in securing equal work opportunities for all citizens.

Stressing the shift towards decentralisation, the King urged a halt to the movement from rural areas to cities, and called for the development of agricultural industries and ensuring food security for all.

No doubt the King meant to urge the people to shoulder their responsibilities in building up their country; but for progress to be achieved requires close coordination of efforts and cooperation between government and people. It is only by following this wise path that prosperity can be achieved.

AL DUSTOUR: In justifying his request to the U.S. Senate for \$145 million in aid to Jordan and Syria, President Carter said the two countries are acting with good intention to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

We would like to believe that the president of the United States has finally realised that the Camp David agreements have fallen short of achieving comprehensive peace.

We would like to believe that President Carter has now realised the true dimensions of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy in the region and sees that this policy constitutes the stumbling block in the way of achieving peace, particularly as it insists on disregarding the Palestinian right to self-determination and supports continued occupation of Arab territory.

We would like to imagine that Mr. Carter's Middle East envoy, Mr. Sol Linowitz, who is coming to the region soon, will be carrying the final blueprint of Washington's views regarding the establishment of peace in our region. With this hypothesis, one is prompted to believe that it represents the first step towards rectifying U.S. policy, by bypassing the Camp David accords which have been abused by Israel.

It would also mean that Washington wants to return to a policy of encouraging a comprehensive peaceful settlement based on Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and recognising Palestinian rights.

If this is the case, then the Arab World will find no harm in contributing effectively along with the U.S. and other parties in the region towards a genuine solution to the problem. But if with his statement the president only intends to justify giving Jordan and Syria aid, then the two countries will just thank the United States for the assistance but will definitely continue to reject the Camp David accords, which were drawn up to serve Israel's purposes.

WHAT'S GOING ON

French Film

The French Cultural Centre presents a film by Luis Bunuel entitled "La mort en ce jardin" starring Simone Signoret and Michel Piccoli. The film starts at 7:30 p.m.

Documentary Exhibition

The French Cultural Centre presents a documentary exhibition entitled "The History of the French Song." This exhibition continues until January 27.

The Ministry of Culture and Youth The Department of Culture and Arts in cooperation with the Romanian Embassy

presents
An exhibition of modern sculpture

The one-week exhibition will open at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, 1980 at the arts gallery at the ministry of culture and youth.

From 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Free entry

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NOTICE FOR PREQUALIFICATIONS CONTRACTORS AND JOINT VENTURES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING CLOSING DATE EXTENSION

Birzeit University, planning to proceed with the construction of its school of engineering, invites contractors and joint ventures who are interested in bidding for the execution of this project to submit prequalifications.

The prequalification file should include the following information:

1. Experience in similar works during the past 5 years.
2. Human resources (including technical staff, management and key personnel).
3. Financial status of the firm during the past 5 years.

A brief description of the project follows:
Location: Birzeit University campus, West Bank
Land: Rocky and sloping 10-15 per cent
Total area of construction - 11,000 square metres
Number of floors: A maximum of five floors, to be built in reinforced concrete
External finishes in local limestone and exposed concrete.

Note: The University could provide the following facilities:

1. Provision of some equipment according to prenegotiated agreement.
2. Financial advancement for the contractor.

The prequalifications files should be submitted to the following address not later than 15 Feb., 1980, Birzeit University - Public Relations Office, P.O. Box 974 Amman, Jordan.

Amas-Scene

filed for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of Jan. 19 - 25)

EXHIBITS

Y, Jan. 20: A selection of entries from the 8th national graphic exhibition of the German Democratic Republic will go with a 6 p.m. reception in the GDR Cultural Centre.

AY, Jan. 22: More than 35 representative works are on in an exhibition titled "Decorative Arts of the Georgian" which opens with a 6 p.m. reception in Al Sha'b Gallery. s and copper sculptures are by Heracle Ochiwari, who was Georgia in 1924 and is a graduate of the Tibissi Fine Arts ty. Ceramics, graphics and popular wool carpets complete the hich will be on view for 10 days. Hours: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 4-8 ly except Friday.

n exhibition featuring works of young Palestinian painters view for one week at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

SSDAY, Jan. 23: The first-ever exhibition of Australian aphic art will open Wednesday with a 6 p.m. reception in the on Gallery of the Damascus National Museum. The 54 in colour and black and white by nine young Australian aphers depict the bushland and city life of Australia. The ntines Jan. 30. Hours: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 2 - 4 p.m. daily uesday. The exhibit opened its run in Baghdad and will go to before being shown in Amman and Beirut.

VUING: "The Songs of France" titles an exhibition of docu-osters and sheet music depicting the social impact of popular on French society in the French Cultural Centre.

CONCERT

DAY, Jan. 20: The works of Brahms, Bartok and Beethoven rformed by Gottfried Schneider, violinist, and Karl Betz, in an 8:30 p.m. concert in Al Kabbani Hall. The concert is sented by the Goethe Institute and the Ministry of Culture.

LECTURES

Y, Jan. 21: In connection with Palestinian Cultural Week at the Soviet Cultural Centre, Abou Mazin, head of the p union between the USSR and Palestinians, will talk at 6 he centre (in Arabic).

Y, Jan. 22: Dr. Bodo Schirmer will give a slide lecture.



Copper sculpture by the Georgian master Heracle Ochiwari is one of 35 works on view in Al Sha'b Gallery.

entitled "Geological Formations in the Syrian Arab Republic", at 7 p.m. in the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre (in German, with Arabic translation).

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 23 and THURSDAY, Jan. 24: "An Evening of Palestinian Poetry and Prose" titles the programmes to be given at 6 p.m. both nights, when prominent Palestinian poets and writers will read selections of their works (in Arabic).

VIDEO-TAPED PROGRAMMES

TUESDAY, Jan. 22: "Louis Feuillade: the Cinema of his Times—the 1920s" titles a 6 p.m. programme in the French Cultural Centre (in French).

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 23: "Maurice Chevalier," Part I titles a musical revue slated for 6 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre (in French).

FRIDAY, Jan. 25: Part II of "Maurice Chevalier" will be shown at 6 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

SATURDAY, Jan. 19, and MONDAY, Jan. 21: "La Grande Lesive," a 1968 film directed by Jean Pierre Mocky starring Bourvil, Francis Blanche, Jean Tissier and Jean Poiret, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. both nights in the French Cultural Centre (in French, with Arabic sub-titles).

SUNDAY, Jan. 20: A series of documentaries will be shown beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre. Their titles are: "GDR Revue," "Fishermen's Cooperative," "Old New Towns," "Journalists' Solidarity Bazaar." All are sub-titled in Arabic.

MONDAY, Jan. 21: A documentary entitled: "Palestinians: the Right of Survival," will be shown at 6 p.m. in the Soviet Cultural Centre.

TUESDAY, Jan. 22: Two Palestinian films will be shown at the Soviet Cultural Centre at 6 p.m. They are titled: "The Artist Ibrahim Granom" and "Struggle of the Earth."

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 23: A film by the famed West German director, Werner Fassbinder, will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Goethe Institute. The title of the 1972 film is "Der Händler der Vie; Jahreszeiten." Hanna Schygulla and Irm Hermann star (in German, with French sub-titles).

*** Two documentaries will be shown at the Spanish Cultural Centre at 6:30 p.m. Both are narrated in English. Their titles: "La Caza en Espana" and "Madrid."

THURSDAY, Jan. 24: "Sans Mobile Apparent" entitles a 1971 film directed by Philippe Labro, which will be shown at 8:30 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre. It stars Jean-Louis Trintignant, Dominique Sanda, Sacha Distel and Stephane Audran.

U.S. congresswoman expresses sympathy for the Arab cause

EDITOR'S NOTE: Congresswoman Mary Rose Okar (D-Ohio) was one of a five-person U.S. congressional delegation that recently made a fact-finding trip to Lebanon, Syria and Israel. The mission was a first in that three of its representatives are Arab Americans: Ms. Okar, Mr. Toby Moffett (D-Connecticut) and Mr. Nick Rahall (D-West Virginia). Other members of the team were Mr. Bob Carr (D-Michigan) and Mr. Paul "Pete" McCloskey (R-California). When the mission was completed, Ms. Okar returned to Syria to visit her father's birthplace near Homs. In an exclusive interview with the Jordan Times, she discusses the work of the delegation and the emotional impact of discovering her family roots in Syria.

DAMASCUS — "The focus of our fact-finding mission was Lebanon. We talked with the Mufti, the Maronite Patriarch, Shiite leaders, with (President Elias) Sarkis, Chamoun Arafat, with the villagers in south Lebanon and the man in the street of Beirut," Ms. Okar said. "The statement repeated by each was 'the foreigners must leave Lebanon and allow us to solve our problems for ourselves. Secondly, the Palestinians must have a homeland so that their problems do not compound our own.'"

When asked about the delegation's meeting with Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, Ms. Okar replied: "I feel that the meeting with Mr. Arafat is going to be over-emphasised in the press. It was just as important to meet with all the other individuals who are instrumental in the eventual destruction or survival of Lebanon. That's why we insisted on meeting with religious leaders. We definitely feel they influence their followers as to whether or not to continue armed conflicts."

Summing up the conclusions of her investigative committee, Ms. Okar said her team called for a national Lebanese dialogue exclusive of Syrians, Israelis, the United Nations and other factions. She termed this dialogue a meeting of all the families, factions and militias of Lebanon to decide what is best for Lebanon. "After talking with a multitude of leaders, we are opposed to any schemes for partitioning Lebanon. We support a unified government," she said. "We heard Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Mr. Arafat and the Israelis articulate the same theme: 'only a united Lebanon can survive.'"

"We visited southern Lebanon and the destruction we viewed made a lasting impression upon all of us. Upon returning to Washington, D.C., our delegation will call for a permanent halt to Israeli bombing of southern Lebanon. "Furthermore, we called upon Mr. Arafat to uphold the agreement of Tunis in which he said he would not attack Israel from Lebanon. Another of our recommendations will be for U.S. aid to Lebanon in the form of military and economic assistance."

"Our committee should be making its recommendations before Feb. 1 and these also will include a statement that the USAID programme to Syria must be continued. More importantly, we are going to voice a strong protest against the use of U.S. weapons in bombing missions over Lebanon. If Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon continue, I shall be the first person to stand up on the House floor and object."

After four days in Lebanon, the group spent 24 hours in Syria, where it had a two-hour session with President Assad and a meet-

ing with Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam and other Syrian leaders. The team then spent two days in Israel. "We visited the settlements on the West Bank, we talked with Palestinian mayors on the West Bank, and we asked some very hard questions of the Israelis --

departed for the U.S., Ms. Okar returned to Syria to visit for the first time her father's birthplace, the town of Cafroun in the mountains near Homs, which she described as a two-and-a-half hour drive from Damascus, some 20 miles from the Lebanese border.

"I'm the youngest of three brothers and one sister," she said. "As children, we used to listen to our father tell us what we called Syria Stories. Dad, bless his soul, would tell us how he picked oranges, figs and grapes in the rich orchards of Cafroun, he described the fresh sweet water that came from its springs. We assumed he exaggerated when he told us of the paradise of Cafroun. When I vis-

women hold seats in the Syrian parliament. How I wish I could have told him then that one of the six representatives was my cousin."

Ms. Okar noted that one of the recommendations her committee will make is an appeal for more U.S. delegations to visit all states in the Middle East.

"If we congressional representatives are to vote intelligently on the expenditures of the U.S. taxpayers' money and vote intelligently on the issues for peace in the Middle East, we must be informed. One can't understand something unless he knows it and sees it firsthand. For example, the destruction of southern Lebanon made a great, unforgettable impact on all of us."

"More U.S. congressmen should visit all the countries in the Middle East. We couldn't have made this trip if the governments of the three host nations hadn't extended invitations to us. I hope more invitations will be forthcoming from Arab states."

In closing the interview, Ms. Okar gave an interesting insight into the possible reason for the formation of her fact-finding mission, the first of its kind with an Arab connection.

"Much as I respect Vice President Walter Mondale, in my opinion, the second most important man in the U.S. is the Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neil, who assigned our delegation to the Middle East."

"It may be nothing more than a coincidence, but I suspect that one reason our particular mission was organised to see both sides of the Middle East problem is because his daughter-in-law, wife of Thomas O'Neil, Jr., is an American of half Italian, half Lebanese Syrian parentage."



Congresswoman Mary Rose Okar

chiefly, were U.S. weapons being used in the bombing of southern Lebanon."

Ms. Okar apologised that on the sensitive issues of Israeli settlements and the bombing of southern Lebanon, she could not specify further conclusions of her team because each member agreed not to discuss their decisions until they were made to the Speaker of the House.

"There are two sides of the story (of Ms. Okar's family). Even though my father was born in Syria, his grandparents came from the town of Beit Okar, six miles outside of Tripoli, Lebanon," she said. "This is a Maronite village and much of it was destroyed in the civil war. The same held true for the city block that was destroyed in Beirut, where my Maronite relatives still live. Their apartment building somehow was left standing while every other building on the block was destroyed in the civil war. I'm proud to say my Lebanese relatives are gussy people and they told me they would remain in their home even though the rest of the block was rubble."

When the other congressmen

ited there these past few days, I realised that everything he'd described was even better than he'd told us.

"Those warm, wonderful, hospitable villagers were anything but the fierce, war-mongering, cut-throat Syrians we unfortunately hear about in the U.S."

"My father had been an altar boy in the Maronite Church of Cafroun and the elderly pastor of that church insisted that I stay in his home after we attended Sunday services. My father's sister still lives in Cafroun. I can't describe the emotions that welled up when I met my aunt for the first time, when I met my cousins who so closely resemble my brothers and sister, nephews and nieces and cousins in Cleveland, Ohio."

"When I went to Cafroun, I learned that one of my cousins, Miquet Eneyni, is a member of the Syrian parliament. I wish I'd have known this sooner when we had our audience with President Assad. Perhaps it was because I was the only woman on the team, perhaps it was because he knew my father was a Syrian, but it seemed to me that the President directed a great deal of his comments to me. He told me that six

TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be clear to partly cloudy, with southeasterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Overnight	Daytime
	low	high
Amman	4	14
Aqaba	10	23
Deserts	3	15
Jordan Valley	7	19

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	292.50/295.50
West German mark	170.50/171.50
Swiss franc	185.20/186.30
French franc	72.70/73.10
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.50/36.70
Japanese yen (for every 100)	123.30/124.00
Dutch guilder	154.60/155.50
Belgium franc	104.90/105.50
Swedish crown	70.80/71.20

S.-Israel-Egypt summit

(Continued from page 1)

address to the Israel-America Chamber of Commerce in Tel Aviv, former Foreign Minister Blumenthal blamed Israel for the deadlock in the talks. "We're offering the Palestinians 'autonomy' and retaining the power and city, control of the land and security," he

sim Kuberky, head of the Israeli technicians, said on his return from Cairo that it had been no atmosphere of crisis in the talks and that relations between the nations remained cordial.

Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also returned the two countries had worked out all the Egyptian oil supplies to Israel this year.

woven into the Israeli attitude is a basic n, shared by Mr. Begin, that the West ongs to Israel by God-given right. me applies to Israel's rejection of the demand that Arab East Jerusalem be in autonomy. Dr. Burg said East was an undetachable part of the Zionist he cited as "evidence" the fact that was mentioned 660 times in the bible. formidable gap, western diplomats roed that a summit with Mr. Carter putting down a compromise plan re- only real hope of progress. The dip- gested that late spring could well be a en the election campaign pressures ide long enough to afford Mr. Carter summit. officials privately complain that the ates is more and more taking Egypt's e autonomy issue. They were openly ed at the refusal by Egypt and the ates to let the Palestinian problem be d by events in Iran and Afghanistan. in dwell at length on these events uring with President Sadat last week in ic Egyptian leader showed a preference

for tackling problems nearer to home. Some Israeli officials derided American concern for the Palestinians at a time when, as they put it, hostile forces were rampaging through Asia.

The American view, as expressed by U.S. special envoy Sol Linowitz, is that resolution of the Palestinian problem remains a crucial factor in bringing stability to the Middle East and South Asia.

Israeli officials have lately been drawing attention to expressions of support made by leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation for the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

They say this fact underlines the point, made repeatedly in a steady flow of Israeli official publications, that the PLO is a hostile force implacably dedicated to the destruction of Israel and should never be admitted to negotiations.

Mr. Dan Patir, one of the Israeli negotiators and chief spokesman for Mr. Begin, said Egypt's chief negotiator, Ambassador Ezzat Abdul Latif, had not presented a detailed plan but instead had outlined Egypt's ideas during a lengthy speech devoted to rejecting the Israeli proposal.

Mr. Patir said in an Israel Radio interview that Egypt wanted a Palestinian legislature of 80-100 members, an executive or administrative council of 10-15 members. With both bodies to be based in East Jerusalem after attaching the Arab sector of Jerusalem to the autonomous Palestinian regime.

Mr. Begin met today with Israel's autonomy negotiators to be briefed on the Cairo talks, which were held at the level of working groups, including an American delegation.

Mr. Linowitz is due in Israel next week for a new round of autonomy talks with Dr. Burg and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil. The working groups will convene in Israel on Jan. 28 to prepare for the top negotiators' meeting, and Mr. Patir said the Israeli proposal will again be on the table, despite the Egyptian rejection.

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Australia strengthens lead in World Bowls

MELBOURNE, Jan. 18 (R)—Australia consolidated its lead in the World Bowls Championships standings today with two wins in both the pairs and triples events. Australia's pairs team of Alf Sandercock and Peter Rheuben extended their unbeaten run to six with a 21-13 win against Ireland and a 27-10 victory over Malawi. Rheuben continued his fine tactical play and was well supported by Sandercock. New Zealand, joint pairs leader overnight with Australia, slipped to second place today when they lost 20-12 to England and then drew 20-all with Scotland. Australia has 12 points in the pairs table and New Zealand nine, with five countries grouped in third place on eight points. They are the United States, Papua New Guinea, Canada, Jersey and Wales.

In the triples, England and Scotland continued their unbeaten runs and share first place with 12 points each. England's Jim Hobday, Tony Alcock and David Bryant beat New Zealand 21-10 and Fiji 21-14. Scotland's team of John Summers, David McGill and Willie McQueen defeated Fiji 25-18 and New Zealand 26-19. Australia's John Snell, Ron Taylor and Keith Poole improved their position with a 20-16 win over Ireland and a 19-17 win against Malawi which put them fourth in the table with nine points. Canada are third with 10 points. Canada had an easy match against Japan in the morning, winning 22-8, and beat Western Samoa 16-8 in the afternoon. The United States and Zambia trail Australia on eight points each. South Africa, champions in most of the events, are not competing here, having been barred by the Australian government in accordance with United Nations guidelines.

In overall scoring for the Leonard Trophy for the most successful nation, Australia leads with 21 points from England and Scotland on 19. They are followed by Canada, 18, the United States 16, Jersey, Wales, New Zealand and Zambia all on 14, Ireland and Israel 13, Papua New Guinea 12, Fiji 11, Western Samoa 10, Hong Kong 9, Swaziland and Guernsey 8, Kenya 6, Malawi 3 and Japan 0.

Pakistan hopes to draw with India

MADRAS, India, Jan. 18 (R)—With India leading by 103 runs and still holding three wickets, Pakistan can hope for no better result than a draw in the fifth test, which resumes tomorrow at

Chepauk after a day's rest. While there is tremendous depth to Pakistan's batting, they have not reached a total of 300 since they scored 431 for nine declared in the very first innings of the series. Consequently, they are bound to come under pressure when batting in arrears in the second innings. It is in Pakistan's favour, however, that the pitch still looks full of runs. Their handicap is the indisposition of Zaheer Abbas, who scored nought in the first innings and who has not fielded for the major part of India's innings. Zaheer suffering from heavy congestion of the chest. Fried food has disagreed with him in this condition and he has been put on a diet which has left him very weak. He said today that it will take him at least two days to get back into condition.

Australia defeat West Indies

SYDNEY, Jan. 18 (R)—Australia beat a virtual West Indian second eleven by nine runs in a thrilling last-over finish to the limited-over cricket international at the Sydney Cricket Ground today. The West Indians were set 191 runs to win when the Australians, after looking set for a huge score, slumped from 103 for one to 190 all out. Rick McCosker was top scorer for Australia with 95 in 180 minutes, including four fours. Julien Wiener, who made 50, helped him give Australia their best opening stand in the preliminary games of the World Cup series. But the rest of the Australian line-up could add only 87 more runs.

It looked like an easy target for the West Indies, despite their having rested master batsmen Viv Richards and Gordon Greenidge, along with pace bowler Joel Garner. But after picking up from a bad start, they lost their last seven wickets for the

addition of 47 runs to their score. The only batsmen to reach double figures were Alvin Kallicharan, who hit 66, David Murray, 35, and Clive Lloyd, 34 not out.

Pam Shriver to face Navratilova

KANSAS CITY, Missouri, Jan. 18 (AP)—Pam Shriver, who took the tennis world by storm as a 15-year-old in 1970, took another step along the comeback trail last night, defeating Kathy Jordan in second round action at a \$125,000 women's professional tennis tournament. Shriver defeated Jordan 4-6, 6-1 and 7-5 to move into the quarterfinals today against top-seeded Martina Navratilova. In other second round singles matches, Dianne Fromholtz of Australia defeated Sherry Auer 6-3, 6-3. 16-year-old Bettina Bunge beat Betty Stove of Holland 6-2, 6-1, and Greer Stevens of South Africa defeated Laura Dupont 7-5, 7-5. Evonne Goolagong won by default over Ann Kiyomura.

Chappell to quit overseas cricket tours

PERTH, Jan. 18 (AP)—Former Australian cricket captain Ian Chappell said here today that it is extremely doubtful that he would ever undertake an overseas tour for Australia again. "I think most of my cricket from now on will be played in Australia. I doubt if I'll ever tour overseas again," the 36-year-old South Australian Sheffield Shield captain said. Chappell's decision rules him out of contention for the tour of England later this year that

includes the Centenary Test at Lords. "I have already said that I won't be going to Pakistan. These days I find I have got to have bit of a rest in between cricket seasons. I find that consistently long and hard cricket is pretty hard for me these days, so I would prefer to have a rest in the winter and see how I come out in the summer," he said.

However, Chappell added he is "most definitely" available for the third test against the West Indies in Adelaide beginning on Jan. 26 and the third test against England in Melbourne on Feb. 1. "I would be extremely disappointed if I was dropped from the remaining tests," he said.

U.S. athletic union rejects State Department request

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Jan. 18 (R)—The State Department has asked the U.S. Amateur Athletic Union to cancel trips to the Soviet Union this month by American boxers and wrestlers because of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. But Pete Cava, a spokesman for the AAU, told Reuters yesterday that they planned to go ahead with the trips. Mr. Cava said a State Department representative telephoned the AAU's executive director, Ollan Castle, on Wednesday asking him to cancel the visits.

A group of amateur wrestlers are scheduled to leave today for Tbilisi to participate in an international free-style wrestling meet from Jan. 23-27. Next Tuesday 15 amateur boxers are to depart for a tour of three Soviet cities.

Meanwhile, the two top officials of the U.S. Olympic Committee will meet members of the White House staff in Washington today in the hope of finding out whether an American boycott of this year's Summer Olympics in Moscow will be called for.

Dennis Keegan, an official of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said threats of a boycott had created havoc among prospective American competitors. "We're receiving hundreds of calls from athletes who are tremendously confused," Mr. Keegan said. Mr. Keegan said that "99.9 per cent" of the callers stated the United States should not boycott the Moscow Games. "We feel that unless there is some threat to the well-being and rights of our athletes, we plan to go to the games," he said.

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Bridging the Humber

Humber Bridge, a massive engineering structure which, when completed towards the end of 1980, will stretch 1410 metres across the Humber in Eastern England—the longest single span in the world. The first two roadway sections are now in place having been lowered down the river and hauled into place by two huge wire-rope cranes from the main support cables. This process will be repeated three times as the remaining road sections are hoisted into place. The support towers on either bank are over 152 metres high and can be moved several miles. The bridge, which crosses the Humber between the Yorkshire and Barton-upon-Humber in Lincolnshire, will be the east coast ports of Grimsby and Hull. (COI photo)

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 19, 1980

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Good day to please friends some way and gain their favors. Be more willing to operate with others. Be more optimistic.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Know your true position in higher-ups and show that you are loyal to them for results. Think constructively.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take time to study a project that could give you added income in the future. Take the steps to gain a personal wish.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Try to please family members and establish more harmony at home. Use needed health treatments.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Good day to make new friends who can be of great help to you in the future. Be careful of who is jealous of you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Concentrate on how to come more efficient at your work so that you can advance in your line of endeavor.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Good day to enjoy the company of good friends at mutually interesting amusements. Use time later to study your favorite interest.

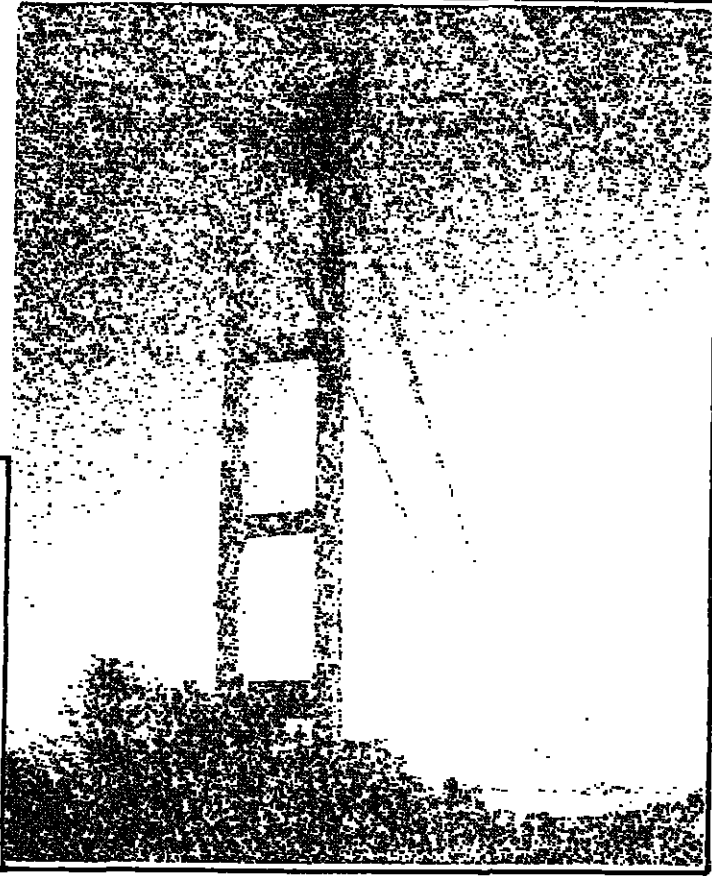
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to forget own desires and do more for your family. Take the right steps to in a personal desire. Be poised.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Use tact and get others to go along with your ideas. Be sure to control your temper at all times today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan how to invest your assets so that you can gain a profit in the days ahead. Stop feeling sorry for yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your personal goals are vital to you now, so plan how to make real progress toward them. Strive for increased happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Be sure not to jeopardize your present security in any way.



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LYPHS

WETET

DOYLOB

MUBHEL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: NOT

Yesterday's Jumbles: ADAPT PERKY GENIUS SLOUCH
Answer: Not very good at making cocktails—NO GREAT SHAKES



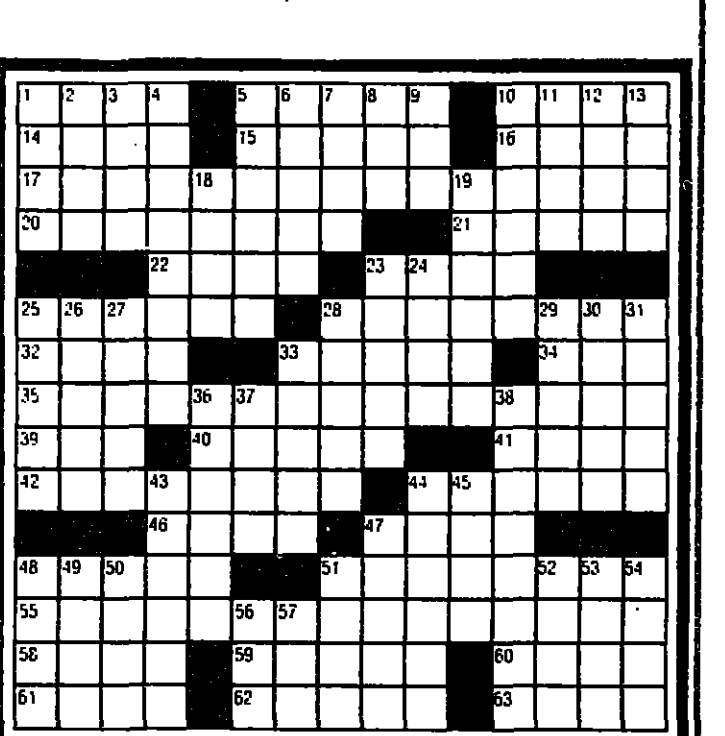
THE Daily Crossword

by Tap Osborn

ACROSS	28	Unctuous character	47	Before bed or block	23	Pitches a fast ball	
1	Rosemary, for one	32	To — (unanimously)	48	Sing softly	24	Axillary
5	Herring-like fish	33	Rude dismissal	51	Plato's teacher	25	Tay —
10	Canine call	34	Caught	55	Unblock	26	Startle
14	Tel Aviv airline	35	Words on a poster	58	70's style	27	Spoke endlessly
15	Beauty salon job	39	Containing nitrogen	59	Incredible bargain	28	Paint pigment
16	Jail	40	Approaches	60	Reason d—	29	Islands off Italy
17	Live in constant conflict	41	Oman's neighbor	61	30's art	30	Subdued
20	Distinction	42	Pain reliever	62	Hostages	31	Songwriter
21	Neglects	44	Jury duty notice	63	Think	32	Cudgel
22	Car's cousin	46	Unaspirated consonant			33	Purpose
23	Lot					34	No. Ger. mummy
25	Serviceman					35	Land

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

L	I	S	T	S	P	A	S	H	A	A	T	T	O
E	L	I	O	T	O	S	T	E	R	S	E	S	S
W	A	L	L	S	T	R	E	E	T	S	S	S	
I	S	S	S	E	E	S	S	E	S	S	S		
S	H	A	R	E	S	S	S	C	A	R			
S				T	I	M	P	E	R	S	S	M	A
R	E	A	D	S	T	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
D	I	C											
P	A	N	T	S									
R	E	A	N	T	S	S							
A	L	E	R	T	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
A													
R	I	D	S										
A	T	T	E										
B	E	A	R										
A	M	P	S										

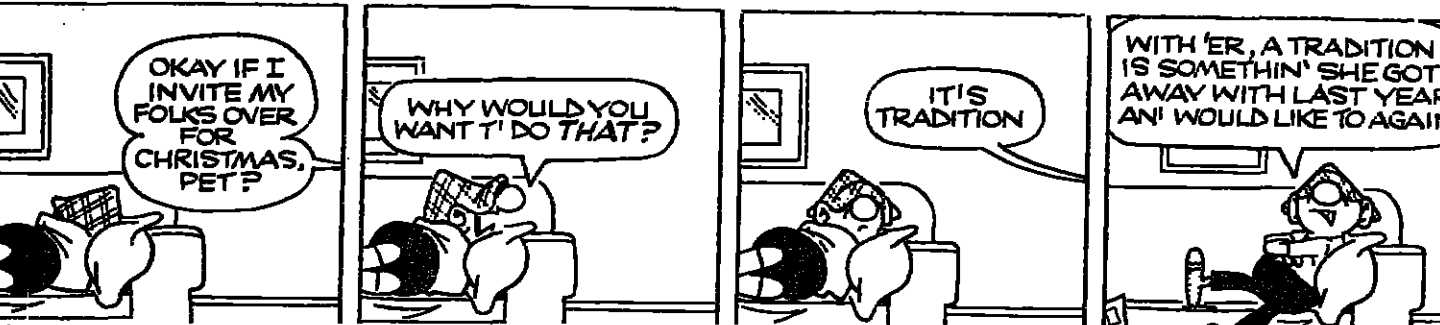


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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Flintstones



GOREN BRIDGE

CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1979 by Chicago Tribune

—As South, vulnerable, hold:
K104 ♠AQ53 ♠A1097

—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
62 ♠AJ4 ♠A642 ♠Q109

bidding has proceeded:
th West North East
Pass 1 ♠ Pass
Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

—As South, vulnerable, hold:
J ♠J753 ♠Q9 ♠J7543

bidding has proceeded:
th East South West
Pass 1 NT Pass
Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

—As South, vulnerable, hold:
2 ♠A6 ♠A742 ♠KJ75

bidding has proceeded:
th North East South
2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠4 ♠KJ76 ♠K1075 ♠KJ93

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ65 ♠K53 ♠KQJ9 ♠AQ

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.7—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQJ10 ♠A9642 ♠Q103 ♠5

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.8—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K1052 ♠KJ984 ♠A97 ♠4

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
Pass 5 ♠ Pass Pass
Pass

What is your opening lead?

OUT & ABOUT

CHINESE RESTAURANT **QUICK MEAL**

1. and best Chinese restaurant in Jordan.
1 Circle, Jabal Amman, the Ahilyah School or S. Tel. 38968.
In daily from noon to 3:30 and 6:30—11:30midnight. Also take home food-order by phone.

For advertising in above columns contact
"SOUT WA SOUR" Tel. 38969
Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
LET THE JORDAN TIMES HEAR ABOUT IT
WRITE TO: P.O. BOX 6710

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3	CHANNEL 6
5:30 Kurat	6:30 French programme
5:40 Cartoons	7:00 News in French
6:10 Space Adventures	7:30 News in Hebrew
6:35 Children's programme	8:00 Comedy
7:00 Arabic programme	9:10 L'Europe, l'Orient, le Monde
7:10 Return to Pervon Place	9:40 L'Europe, l'Orient, le Monde
8:00 News in Arabic	10:00 News in English
8:30 Arabic series	10:15 Continuation of Sunday
9:30 Documentary	Sunday and Monday
10:15 Arabic programme	11:20 Blue
11:10 News in Arabic	
11:30 Blue	

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Sign	14:30 Jordan Weekly
7:01 Morning Show	15:00 Concert Hour
7:30 News Bulletin	16:00 News-Summary
7:41 Morning Show	16:15 Easy Listening
10:00 News Summary	16:30 Old Favorites
10:30 Jordan in History	17:00 International Top Twenty
11:00 Sign off	18:00 News Summary
12:00 News Headlines	18:15 First Spin
12:03 Radiotheque	19:00 News Bulletin
13:00 News Summary	19:10 Music
13:03 Radiotheque	19:30 Sign off
14:00 News Bulletin	
14:10 Music	

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES
6:45 Kuwait	8:40 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (LH)
8:00 Muscat, Doha (RJGF)	9:00 Amman
8:15 Ajlun	9:10 Beirut
9:00 Tehran	9:30 Agder, Frankfurt
10:00 Karachi, Dubai (RJ GF)	9:45 Cairo
10:00 Beirut	9:50 Beirut (LH)
11:00 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)	10:10 Beirut (LH)
12:05 Kuwait (KAC)	11:00 Baghdad
13:30 Cairo	11:30 Geneva, Brussels
15:00 Cairo (EA)	12:00 Vienna, London
15:30 Paris, Beirut (AF)	12:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (SDI)
16:15 Cairo	12:30 Cairo
16:30 Benghazi	12:40 Kuwait (KAC)
19:05 Frankfurt	14:30 Tunis
19:45 Beirut (NIEA)	14:45 Cairo (EA)
19:50 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)	15:30 Cairo
20:10 Copenhagen, Athens	21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ GF)
20:50 Cairo (EA)	21:30 Cairo
21:45 Larnaka (BA)	22:30 Cairo (EA)
22:30 Cairo (EA)	22:40 Hanoi (BA)
02:15 Cairo	23:50 Cairo (EA)

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Al Jamil (37291)
Almami	Al Jibad (71547)
Najati Sakkar (36678)	Al Hazzazi
Amir Abdul Jaber (24222)	Zargat
Almami	Al Adhich
Salim Dahmash (27731)	Tadde
Zargat	Hidam Hayat (62440)
Pharmacies:	Neel (44453)
Hidam Hayat (62440)	Targ (25241)
Almami	Shimani (65294)
Almami	Al Salim (36780)

BBC RADIO

13:00 News: Commentary	13:15 Come Here
13:30 Network U.K.	13:45 The House at Poth Corner
14:00 Dico Fever	14:30 Anything Goes
15:00 Radio Newsworld	15:15 Sunday Special
16:15 Sunday Special	16:30 News: Commentary
17:00 News: Commentary	17:15 Off the Record
17:30 News: Commentary	17:45 The House at Poth Corner
18:00 News: Commentary	18:15 Off the Record
18:30 News: Commentary	18:45 The House at Poth Corner
19:00 News: Commentary	19:15 Off the Record
19:30 News: Commentary	19:45 The House at Poth Corner
20:00 News: Commentary	20:15 Off the Record
20:30 News: Commentary	20:45 The House at Poth Corner
21:00 News: Commentary	21:15 Off the Record
21:30 News: Commentary	21:45 The House at Poth Corner
22:00 News: Commentary	22:15 Off the Record
22:30 News: Commentary	22:45 The House at Poth Corner
23:00 News: Commentary	23:15 Off the Record

VOICE OF AMERICA

18:30 New York, New York	19:00 News and This Week
19:30 Press Conference USA	20:00 Special English: new words and their stories
20:30 Special English: new words and their stories	21:00 Weekend

CULTURAL CENTRES (Amman)

American Centre	Tel. 41520
British Council	3617-8
French Cultural Centre	3709-6
Goethe Institute	11995
Soviet Cultural Centre	34065
Spanish Cultural Centre	34065
Haya Arts Centre	65145
Hausen Youth City	67161
Y.W.C.A.	41797
Y.W.M.C.A.	64251
Amman Municipal Library	66111
University of Jordan Library	65111
Citadel Museum	36191
Folklore Museum	36191

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	2430-4
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36381-2
Municipal water services (emergency)	37111-3
Police headquarters	34141
Najdah towing patrol (emergency)	21111, 37777
Airport information (ALIA)	35205
Jordan Television	75111
Radio, English Section	74124
First aid, fire, police	19
Fire headquarters	22691

CULTURAL CENTRES (Damascus)

Al Mantra Theatre	Tel. 226-448
Al Sheh An Gallery	2430-4
American Centre	552-262
Arab Cultural Centre	333-727
Bulgarian Cultural Centre	557-601
British Cultural Centre	533-544
Deutsche Demokratische Republik Cultural Centre	553-452
French Cultural Centre	234-694
Kabuki Theatre	522-016
National Museum	112-654
Swiss Cultural Centre	225-690
Spanish Cultural Centre	334-695
Umma Art Gallery	334-619
Zahara Public Library	111-318
West German Cultural Institute	224-954

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Damascus)

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 118-390
Electric Power Co. (repair)	225-667
Fire headquarters	91
Information	45-97
Municipal water service	113-501

Further surgery may be necessary to save Tito

BELGRADE, Jan. 18 (R)—Yugoslav government leaders were reported gloomy and deeply concerned today over the prospects of saving President Tito's life.

The 87-year-old chief of state was in critical condition, with doctors insisting that further surgery or amputation of his left leg might be the only way to keep him alive, Yugoslav sources said.

President Tito's doctors said today his condition had not changed essentially since yesterday, when they reported that his left leg was deteriorating after an unsuccessful operation on Sunday.

The statement by the panel of eight doctors, all medical professors, suggested that his leg condition was continuing to worsen. "The general condition of President Tito's health is essentially unchanged compared with yesterday," the bulletin said.

The president is staying in the cardio-vascular section of the main hospital in the north-western city of Ljubljana.

Today's terse bulletin was the shortest of the daily statements issued since President Tito underwent the operation to clear an arterial blockage in his left leg.

The operation was later declared unsuccessful and medical sources have spoken increasingly of the possibility of an amputation to save the president's life.

Government officials refused to confirm reports that the president was refusing to allow amputation, but they indicated that he was under pressure from top com-

munist aides to accept medical advice.

Conflicting reports

There were conflicting reports of whether or not gangrene had set in, and whether it was still possible to amputate.

Government authorities have disclosed few details of the precise nature of President Tito's illness except that he is suffering from a circulatory blockage in his left leg.

Medical experts said that amputation might be impossible if unofficial reports that the circulatory obstruction was close to the upper thigh or hip were correct.

Informed sources said the president was depressed and pessimistic about his chances of recovery. They said he had resisted amputation because he believed it would provide only a temporary remedy.

The president, who has a strong sense of history, was said to be reluctant to prolong his life for a short time if this meant he would be seriously incapacitated and unable to carry out state functions.

But the sources said they believed he would accept the view of his aides that national interests, especially at a time of rising world tension, made it essential for him

to cooperate in attempts to keep him alive.

After the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, there were fears here that the Kremlin might take hostile action in some form against Yugoslavia if a post-Tito leadership appeared to be weak or unstable.

President Tito took Yugoslavia out of the Soviet bloc in 1948 and has since followed an independent line.

Officials said they were disturbed by Western reports about possible Soviet intervention. They believed speculation of this kind could be counter-productive since Moscow might regard it as provocative.

The Soviet news agency Tass accused NATO two days ago of trying to disrupt Soviet-Yugoslav relations and said the West was seeking a pretext for its own intervention in Yugoslavia.



VALLEY FORGE, Pennsylvania—American astronaut Dr. Rhea Seddon, who is a surgeon and expert dietitian, shows how a straw will be used for some of the 14 beverages and 90 different kinds of foods that will be available from the U.S. Space Shuttle galley (background) for Shuttle astronauts in orbit. Dr. Seddon helped design the galley at NASA's General Electric Space Division in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. (AP laserphoto)

Especially among athletes, according to Reuter survey

'Little evidence of support for Olympics boycott'

LONDON, Jan. 18 (R)—Behind the threats and headlines, there is little evidence of international support for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics—especially among the athletes who expect to take part.

A Reuter survey of opinion in world capitals suggests that the United States, Britain and Saudi Arabia would have to exert a lot more influence to achieve a meaningful, large-scale boycott.

Few doubt such a boycott would be an effective protest against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Diplomats in Moscow say it would be a serious propaganda blow for the Kremlin.

But the risk for the West is that

McCartney to be held in Tokyo another ten days for questioning

TOKYO, Jan. 18 (R)—Former Beatle Paul McCartney is to be held in detention for another ten days for questioning on suspicion of violating Japan's marijuana control law, a Tokyo district court spokesman said.

He was arrested at Tokyo airport on Wednesday after customs officials said they found 220 grammes of marijuana in his suitcase.

The court spokesman said the court agreed today to an application for Mr. McCartney's further detention from the Tokyo public prosecutor's office.

Earlier, Mr. McCartney was handed over to the prosecutor's office by narcotics control officials, who questioned him yesterday following his arrest at Tokyo Airport.

The prosecutor's office, which will decide whether to lay formal charges against the 37-year-old rock star, can, if necessary, ask the district court for another ten-day extension.

A Finance Ministry spokesman said the ministry would also question Mr. McCartney in connection with Japan's customs control law on suspicion that he brought undeclared marijuana into the country.

He had arrived with his American wife Linda and four children for an 11-concert tour of Japan with his group, Wings. The tour has now been cancelled at a cost to the sponsors of about \$400,000.

a boycott by just a handful of countries would probably be turned to propaganda advantage in Moscow.

It could possibly ricochet against the boycott organisers. Even in the U.S. and Britain, where the idea has been most widely canvassed, there does not appear to be solid popular backing.

As they begin final training for the games—scheduled to open on July 19—the athletes are almost unanimously opposed to anything that would sabotage their chance of winning a medal.

Kenyan runner Julius Sang said: "We don't want to be used in an East-West conflict over Afghanistan."

One of the few big sports names to speak up for a boycott is New Zealand's former 5,000-metre world record holder Dick Quax.

He likened the Moscow Olympics to the 1936 Berlin Olympics which Hitler used as a showcase for Nazism.

"The Russians have a lot of money and propaganda tied up in the Olympics and if the games don't come off, it could be a good thing," he told Reuters.

But the majority opinion of the competitors was summed up by Australia's most famous post-war runner, Ron Clarke.

"If sportsmen had to judge the morals of all their competitors and their competitors' governments before stepping into an arena, there would be almost a death of international sport," he said.

Most athletes seem sure their respective national Olympic committees—the bodies who eventually decide—will not pull out of the games.

The national Olympic committees do not have much time to make up their minds. Final invitations to compete in Moscow are now on their way to each committee.

Once the committees accept the invitation, Olympic rules forbid them from withdrawing—this is to prevent the sort of last-minute boycott made by Black African nations in Montreal.

Lord Killanin, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president, has forcefully reminded the national committees of their obligation. In his view, it would be physically impossible to change the Olympic venue at this stage.

In Soviet bloc countries, scorn has been poured on the boycott campaign. A Czechoslovak sports paper described it as an "attempt to misuse the Olympics for cold war purposes."

In Moscow itself, it does not appear the threat is taken too seriously. Informed sources said the question was barely discussed when propaganda officials from the ten member countries of the Comecon bloc met there this week.

Meanwhile, Soviet chefs are banking on a full entry. A Tass News Agency item reported that they had now agreed on the menu for the full 14 days of the games, with 400 main courses designed for all palates.

Former monarch interviewed in Panama Charges that 100,000 were killed during Shah's reign 'preposterous'

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (R)—The ousted Shah of Iran said in a television interview broadcast last night that charges that he and his agents killed 100,000 people during his rule were preposterous.

Asked about the charges by British journalist David Frost at his exile home in Panama last week, he said: "100,000 people, where? At what occasion?"

"It's preposterous, ridiculous. I wouldn't even use the word disgusting, lie, it's so ridiculous that I just say they don't know how to count."

Asked whether there were any circumstances under which he would go back to Iran to face a trial by the revolutionary government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, he said: "Well, first of all who are they to try me? They should be tried first."

The ex-Shah was asked if he felt he had erred in proposing that Ayatollah Khomeini should be moved in 1978 from his exile in Iraq to Paris, where he was more available to the world's press.

He replied: "I still think the best

policy with clergy people, when it becomes absolutely impossible to deal with them, is just to ask them politely to take a trip."

When Mr. Frost interjected "On a one-way ticket," he added: "Well, this time it wasn't a one-way ticket."

Asked what the United States could have done to help him, he said: "Well, nothing."

"I think that instead of the U.S. and the U.K. coming out so strongly with words by saying that 'we are 100 per cent behind the Shah, we support him in this and that,' if they had just kept quiet from the beginning and not mixed into our affairs, that would have been probably the best thing."

The ex-Shah parried questions on his personal wealth, merely saying he had much less than many American millionaires.

He said claims that he had contributed money to the election campaigns of former presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford were ridiculous.

He said reports that 10,000 people died in riots during the last year of his reign were totally false. The total was probably less than the number who have died since, he said.

He admitted that his secret police, Savak, was active against Iranian students on U.S. university campuses. But, he added, "After all their job was to report every kind of subversive, anarchic, nihilistic, Maoistic, communist,



Recent photo of former Shah of Iran (Gamma photo)

Trotskyist, Castro activities."

He also admitted there had been torture during his reign but said this was the act of individuals, not of official order that he had stopped by 1977.

He said the number of tortured was in the hundreds most and possibly not over 1,000.

Referring to suggestions U.N. commission should look into crimes attributed to his rule, he said the Soviet Union was impotent on issues such as the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956, the Cuban tragedy and the Chinese people.

"On a single person, a less person like me, then it is strong," he said.

World News Briefs

SALISBURY, Jan. 18 (R)—British Governor Lord Soames extended for six months the controversial state of emergency in Rhodesia, it was announced in the government gazette today. The state of emergency was to last until July 26. The state of emergency, in effect since the last British governor, Sir Humphrey Gibbs, died at the instigation of Prime Minister Ian Smith on N 1965, six days before Mr. Smith unilaterally declared independence from Britain. Most of Rhodesia's most repressive legislation, including martial law, detention without trial, certain forms of censorship and suspension of human rights, stems from emergency regulations. The governor's proclamation was made under the existing situation, and the state of emergency will automatically be lifted on independence, expected in March, when a new constitution will be introduced. It would be up to an incoming government to decide its own state of emergency if it wanted to do so.

NEW DELHI, Jan. 18 (R)—At least six people were killed, and five when police opened fire, in a fresh outbreak of violence in north-eastern state of Assam today, the Press Trust of India agency reported. Assam has been the scene of mass agitation several weeks by local organisations demanding deletion of national front voters' lists and their deportation. The agent police opened fire after tear gas and baton charges failed to disperse a crowd of about 5,000 outside the Oil India company office at Jan, in upper Assam. Earlier, the company's local technical staff was killed by demonstrators, who dragged him out of his car. The agency said an indefinite curfew had been imposed in the area.

LISBON, Jan. 18 (R)—The Soviet Union has cut its oil supply to Portugal for 1980 by nearly half, Prime Minister Francisco de Sá Carneiro disclosed last night. The premier told parliament that a new deal from the state oil company Petrolgal had signed an agreement with Moscow for the supply of 450,000 tonnes of crude this year. Soviet Union was Portugal's second-biggest oil supplier in 1979, 850,000 tonnes. The head of Petrolgal's supply department, thought the cut was due purely to technical and commercial reasons adding the Soviet Union had left open the possibility that it might be able to secure more oil from it later this year. Portugal requirements in 1980 are estimated at nine million tonnes. On of this has still not been secured and the government has appointed a special roving ambassador to speed up negotiations. Petrolgal President Moura Vicente said yesterday that Saudi Arabia would meet the present shortfall in Portugal's oil supplies this year.

CANBERRA, Jan. 18 (R)—Australian Prime Minister M. Fraser will fly to Washington and London for talks on the Afghan crisis with President Carter and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today, Mr. Fraser issued a statement saying he would be in Washington on Jan. 31 and London on Feb. 4 to discuss the coordinating Western countries' reaction to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The prime minister said he is also sending Foreign Minister A. Peacock to Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, India, and Pakistan for consultations on the situation.

STRASBOURG, France, Jan. 18 (R)—European Economic Community (EEC) Development Commissioner Claude Cheysson today he would propose that the Community give \$10 million to Pakistan to cope with Afghan refugees. He told the European Parliament food aid from the Community in the form of milk powder butter oil was already on its way. The Parliament backed a request from British Conservative Sir Fred Warner approving urgent aid for the refugees, who he said would soon number half a million. The full 13-man commission agrees with Mr. Cheysson's proposal approval could be given by the Nine next week.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Jan. 18 (R)—California Governor Brown withdrew yesterday from a contest for the support of delegates to the 1980 Democratic Party presidential convention. Polls showed he had the backing of only four per cent of voters compared with 57 per cent for President Carter and 25 per cent for Senator Edward Kennedy. Delegates will be shared out on the basis of votes cast by Iowa Democrats next Monday. Presidential candidates must get at least 15 per cent of the votes cast to qualify for support of any delegates. The Iowa vote will be the first of significance in the 1980 campaign. President Carter, who is to gain an impressive win in Iowa, could be hurt in this turn of events by his grain embargo on the Soviet Union for its Afghan intervention.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 18 (R)—One of Hollywood's highest-paid stars, Steve McQueen, 49, has married a 25-year-old model, E. Minty, in a secret ceremony, his press agent said here yesterday. McQueen earned more than \$3 million for his last film "Hunter," and has since turned down a film offer of \$4 million industry sources said. The press agent said Mr. McQueen's Miss Minty Wednesday, but the agent was not told where the marriage took place or who attended. Mr. McQueen was previously married to actress Ali McGraw.

Economic slowdown in the Soviet bloc

By Tom Heneghan

VIENNA—The Soviet bloc, which began the 1970s with promising economic prospects, has entered the 1980s facing stagnating growth and increasing pressures. Most countries of communist Eastern Europe failed to reach their 1979 plan targets, and their 1980 goals are the lowest seen in the area for years.

By lowering their sights so much, communist leaders confirmed what was hinted at in articles and speeches all last year—that the decline which set in during the 1976-1980 plan would continue.

Planners, government officials and Communist Party leaders have all made frank speeches lately outlining the problems their economies face. But almost no country seems to have found a solution to the prevalent syndrome of higher costs, especially for oil, and low productivity and stagnating standards of living.

Recently, in a tough speech revealing the Soviet Union's poor 1979 results, President Leonid Brezhnev threatened to replace inefficient managers with "energetic, creative comrades with initiative" who would work to halt the gradual economic decline.

When it came to effective policies for the future, he offered only a traditional rallying call: to strengthen the unwieldy system of central planning instituted by Stalin in the 1920s.

In Poland, which registered about one per cent growth last year, party leader Edward Gierek said he was not closing his eyes to the country's problems. But he was also unable to suggest a better alternative than the perennial appeal for harder work and more patience.

Only Hungary, which has decided to confront stagnation by strengthening its liberal economic reforms of 1968, appears to be actively working at a plausible economic strategy for the future.

The 1960s began with the same spectre of economic stagnation that now hangs over the 1980s.

Anxious to maintain the growth rates that party propagandists argued were one of the main benefits of communism, several bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, tinkered with plans for reforming their inflexible centralised economies.

The mild Soviet reforms petered out under the weight of bureaucratic opposition, while more radical liberalisation in Czechoslovakia was crushed by a Soviet invasion in 1968. The moderate Hungarian reforms survived, even if only in a scaled-down version.

The bloc's average 1980 growth rate of 4.4 per cent is even less than the 5.4 per cent rate achieved during the 1961-1965 plan, which communist economists considered an unprecedented slump.

Even though the booming early 1970s raised living standards and consumer expectations, nobody outside Budapest seems ready to confront the new decade of stagnation with a second look at reform.

Poland, one of the most impressive performers of the early 1970s, topped the list of gloomy results last year.

Many basic products, especially meat, were in short supply in shops around the country. Up to

70 per cent of the revenues Poland made from exporting coal and other products went straight back to the West in interest payments on Warsaw's \$15 billion debt there.

Battered by severe winters and disappointing harvests, the economy has slumped to a point where one unofficial study among Warsaw intellectuals predicts another wave of worker protests, as in 1956, 1970 and 1976.

"The expected fall in the standard of living for the next two to three years may go beyond all limits of society's psychological resistance," says the study, distributed to party and government leaders by a group called "Experience and the Future."

These poor prospects were reflected in a 1.4 to 1.8 per cent growth rate set for national income, the communist equivalent of gross national product, in 1980. This was the lowest growth rate set in Poland since 1945.

The Soviet Union, the largest and most important economic power within the communist trading community, Comecon, reported 1979 growth at two per cent—also its lowest result since World War II.

Agriculture, which makes up one-fifth of the economy, produced 3.3 per cent less than in 1978, with the important grain harvest tumbling from 237 million tonnes to 179 million tonnes last year.

Consumer items as common as soap, thread and baby nappies were often unavailable, President Brezhnev told the Communist Party Central Committee in November.

The 73-year-old leader singled out a dozen ministers by name in his warning that those responsible for the shortages would have to eliminate them this year.

After listing the disappointments of 1979, President

Brezhnev signalled his determination to try for an adequate growth rate again this year by announcing that national income should grow by four per cent.

Hungary, where officials openly admit inflation is running at about nine per cent, had almost equally disappointing results. The 1.5 per cent growth rate last year was less than half the plan target.

Finance Minister Lajos Faluvegy warned that this year's planned 3.5 per cent growth will not be enough to produce any rise in the standard of living "in 1980 and probably for a few years afterwards."

Although Hungary had several other disappointing results—industrial production reached about half the targeted 4.9 per cent growth—officials in Budapest are hoping their reassertion of the 1968 reforms will help them through the slump.

Instead of receiving heavy subsidies, factories must now pay full world prices for many of their raw materials and supplies. Once-complacent employees will have to work hard to earn their wage increases, and those who fail risk reassignment and possibly even firing.

Officials hope these measures, which have all been explained at length in the state-run press, will help minimise inefficient production and cut down on over-manning and loafing on the job.

In Prague, Mr. Vaclav Hula, head of the State Planning Commission, blamed bad management and rising raw material prices for Czechoslovakia's 2.6 per cent growth rate, about two-thirds of the 1979 target.

"The consumption of basic raw materials, fuel and energy per unit of production is still much higher in Czechoslovakia than in other advanced countries," he told a plenary meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee

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